

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

S. ICHIMURA et al

Serial No.

Filed: March 14, 2001

For: NEUTRAL BEAM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
METHODPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Rewrite claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Once Amended) A neutral beam processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising potential difference adjusting means for making a potential difference between a neutralization cell wall defining said neutralization cell and said conductive member.

6. (Once Amended) A neutral beam processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising electron replenishing means for supplying or generating electrons in said neutralization cell.